

Page 1 – Introduction

Chairman Wells, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Darlene Staffeldt and I am your State Librarian.

Thank you for your time and attention today. I would like to introduce my staff who are here to assist me, Kris Schmitz, Central Services Manager, and Jim Hill, Administrator of the Digital Library Division.

I would like to describe the State Library, highlight some of our services, and touch briefly on the decision packages as presented in the legislative budget book. During my presentation today, I will occasionally refer to one of three documents – the Montana State Library Commission LFD template document, which I understand you received yesterday, the ten page handout and the District Highlights and Statistics booklet which are currently being handed out to you.

For those of you **not** familiar with the state library, I think you will be surprised at how much we do - especially for a small agency - and how important our programs are to Montana citizens, businesses and government. Although some of what we do has a familiar library ring to it, the role of the state library is somewhat different than that of your hometown library. To meet the demands of decision-makers and other information seekers, we have evolved the capacity to process the incredible amount of information flowing through our state government daily. Our library has embraced technology that enables us to keep pace with our citizen's needs and the rest of the country in terms of information services.

Page 2 Top – Mission

The State Library strives to ensure all Montana citizens have access to information created by their government; meets the information needs of Montana government agencies; and serves as the state's primary source of geographic and natural resource information. It also supports the role of all Montana libraries in delivering quality library materials and services to their patrons, works to strengthen local community public libraries, and ensures that Montanans who are visually or physically handicapped are provided access to library resources. We measure our successes by our patrons' and partners' successes.

The State Library is composed of programs that serve the information needs of Montana citizens, and of state, local and tribal governments.

Libraries are more important than ever in this “digital age”. Libraries provide access to quality information and good information is the key to our children’s education, a healthy and growing economy, small business success, quality of life, and responsible government.

Page 2 Bottom – Commission

The State Library is governed by a seven member board. Five members are appointed by the Governor. The other two are the Superintendent of Public Instruction and an appointee of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

The current chair of the commission is Don Allan of Billings, who is with us today and who will be providing testimony following mine. Other commissioners are: **Caroline Bitz**, Box Elder; **Cindy Carrywater**, Hayes-Lodge Pole; **Ron Moody**, Lewistown; **Nora Smith**, Bozeman; **Linda McCulloch**, Superintendent of Public Instruction and **Bruce Morton**, Dean of Montana State University Libraries, appointee of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Commission members are drawn from all areas of Montana and have a wide range of interests and experience. The Commission meets every other month in either Helena or throughout the State to ensure that all areas of Montana are represented.

Page 3 – Long Range Plan

In August 2006, at the Commission meeting in Pablo, Mt, the State Library Commission adopted a new strategic plan for the next five years for the Montana State Library. This plan is the result of over a year of meetings, discussion and input from patrons and partners statewide. As with any plan it is a working document. With in the plan we have five major goals which you have seen in detail beginning on page 6 of your LFD template. Briefly, the five goals are:

- Acquire and manage Content
- Provide convenient Access
- Provide Consultation and Leadership
- Encourage Partnership and Collaboration
- Maintain an Efficient and Effective Organization

The measurable objectives you will find in your template represent some of the key objectives for each of our programs as they implement these goals. You have

approximately five pages whereas the complete long range plan has thirty pages of strategic initiatives. From the long range plan, division and individual annual work-plans have been or are being developed.

Turning back to the Handout Page 4 – Major Divisions

The Montana State Library has three major divisions:

- the **Talking Book Library**, which provides library services for individuals who are unable to read standard print,
- the **Digital Library**, which provides electronic access to government, geographic, and natural resource information for a broad range of users,
- and the **Library Development Division**, which provides consultation and services to libraries statewide.

General administrative support is provided through a small central services section, and information technology support is provided through our Digital Library division.

The LFD give brief description of each of these programs, I would like to give you a few more details.

Starting with Page 5 of the Handout – Talking Book Library (TBL)

Our Talking Book Library provides library services for individuals who are not able to read traditional print. The Talking Book Library is the only access point for Montana citizens to the National Library Service's Talking Book collections.

Our Talking Book library includes approximately 60,000 book titles, as well as magazines, descriptive videos, and a children's collection. We provide reading materials, including books on tape or Braille, to nearly 3,000 Montana citizens with vision or other physical disabilities. Each year we circulate over 150,000 materials to Montanans who have no other place to turn for library resources.

A staff of six FTE is assisted by nearly 75 volunteers providing an average of 860 hours of service monthly. Every year our volunteers contribute the equivalent of 5 or 6 FTE.

Most of the audio books are provided by the National Library for the Blind, which also provides the play back machines and accessory equipment.

While, most of our talking books are provided by the National Library for the Blind, we want to provide our patrons with access to Montana authors and other titles that may be of special interest to Montanans. In order to accomplish that, we operate two recording studios – one here at the State Library which is a digital recording studio and one at the Montana State Prison. We are one of only four programs in the nation recording digitally.

The Talking book library's recording project records an average of 50 Montana-related publications every year, including titles such as One Night in a bad Inn Christy Leskovar, Red Midnight by Ben Mikaelson, Montana Outdoors and Montana Magazine of Western History. Volunteers are responsible for a majority of all recording done at the Talking Book Library, logging many hours just to record one book. Our Montana collection is circulated heavily; it is one of the most popular parts of our collection.

Over the next biennium services to patrons will include:

- WebOPAC which will allow patrons to order online from our extensive collection.
- Web Braille which will allow our patrons to download Braille materials electronically.
- Newline services, which allow our patrons to have access to the daily news via audio newspaper through a dial up phone service.

Page 6 – Digital Library Division

Next, I want to speak about the Digital Library, which incorporates Library and Information Services, the Natural Resource Information System, and the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

The Digital Library Division merges the resources of four statutory programs:

- ***The Natural Resource Information System*** – or NRIS as it is commonly known – provides comprehensive access to information about Montana's natural resources.

- ***The Natural Heritage Program*** – Montana's source for reliable, objective information and expertise to support stewardship of our native species and habitats, emphasizing those of conservation concern.
- ***The Water Information System*** provides a starting point for access information concerning Montana's water resources.
- ***The State Publications Center*** identifies, acquires, catalogs, preserves and provides access to a collection of Montana state agency publications.

The Digital Library specializes in government information and is being transformed by the digital evolution. The Digital Library develops on-demand, electronic mapping and database technologies to enable users to find and use information about natural resources and related fields. Our most heavily used information resources are now in electronic format as most of these resources are no longer published in print. Much of the data held within the digital library are brought together on a routine basis from state and federal agency databases.

You have each been provided an informational brochure titled "**District Highlights and Statistics**". This publication contains statewide statistics as well as information specific to your particular Senate district or the Senate district in which your House district is located.

These publications are being or have been distributed today to all legislators.

This booklet was created by our Digital Library Division and demonstrates the benefits of linking traditional library research services with modern information technology. I'll use this information packet to discuss each of the programs in the Digital Library.

The booklet I'll refer to today covers your Chair's district. Each booklet is uniquely customized to a particular Senate District – similar in form, but different in content.

The first section following my letter of introduction is the Montana Index. This section reflects research conducted by our Library Information Services staff and represents statewide information. This research represents the work of our traditional library staff. These are the people who manage state and federal publications, select and maintain electronic journals and on-line subscription databases for use by our

patrons, and who have the content knowledge to help you find the answers you need from the overwhelming amount of information available to you.

These first segments contain useful statistics we hope will help you as you consider bills this session. This section also includes information from research conducted by Dr. Larry Swanson of the O'Conner Center for the Rocky Mountain West, University of Montana. This information gives some context to the changes impacting Montana.

The next page in your report displays plant and wildlife information for your district. This information comes from the databases in our Natural Heritage Program. We all know that Montana's natural resources are critical for our citizens and economy, and are essential to our quality of life. Good information is necessary to maintain this heritage as the state grows and develops. Montana decision-makers and resource managers—both public and private—relay on information and expertise from the Heritage Program to maintain healthy species populations and habitats, and avoid needless losses and declines in Montana's biological wealth.

The Natural Heritage Program provides an objective, one-stop source for information on Montana's species and habitats. Users emphasize the value of this service because it saves time and money and provides scientific information that is unbiased and trustworthy.

The next section of your report contains District-specific statistics provided by our Natural Resource Information System or NRIS. NRIS provides comprehensive access to information about Montana's natural resources. NRIS acquires, stores, and disseminates location-relevant information in useful forms. We work with a number of state and federal agencies to acquire the most current and accurate information available. We then compile this information and share it in easily referenced and accessible formats. This core mission has become increasingly challenging with the explosion in the volume of electronic information, and rapidly changing content and versions. Never before has it been this easy for agencies and individuals to publish new maps, information or reports--sometimes updating that information or publication on a daily basis. Keeping up with these changes and new publications is one of the keys to NRIS' success and service, but is becoming increasingly difficult with its current core resources.

The tables in your report demonstrate the power of integrating information from multiple sources, making it relevant by placing it in context, and allowing users to

examine information for a particular geographic area, be it a legislative district, a county, a watershed, and many other user-selectable areas.

For more than 20 years, NRIS has been collecting and sharing Montana information. The program has been recognized as a national role model in enabling citizens, business and government to find the information and data they need to make decisions about planning, permitting, development, and conservation.

To wrap up this part of my presentation, let me point out two maps in the back of your booklet--, one shows the Montana Library Federation boundaries, and the other is the Montana Legislative Districts map. These maps are only an example of the hundreds of map produced with information available through our Digital Library's NRIS program. These maps can be displayed on-line, customized to display user-selected information, or downloaded for printing.

Page 7 – Library Development

Library Development is at the heart of excellent library services across Montana. This program focuses on issues and concerns of libraries *across the state* – not at the State Library. The Library Development Division provides leadership and guidance related to library programs, services and facilities. Partnering with Montana librarians, a professional staff plans, develops, and implements programs and administers funds for new and improved library services throughout the state.

With operations in four offices in Big Timber, Billings, Great Falls, and Helena, our Library Development staff provides assistance via telephone and on-site visits to libraries on topics such as budget preparation, long range planning, management, public library standards, trustee training, computer networking, and library automation.

As the field of librarianship evolves, providing educational opportunities as well as professional publications helps keep Montana librarians aware of the new trends in traditional as well as electronic library services. Our Library Development Division coordinates continuing education and training in a variety of formats...one on one, workshops, scholarships for formal education, etc. A week-long Summer Institute is provided to Montana public library directors so they can continue to grow in their profession and offer Montana citizens even better access to information. An annual Fall workshop is provided to all Montana librarians.

Montana is one of many states who have or who are building statewide library networks to improve the availability and delivery of library materials and services. The

cooperative libraries in Montana are known as the Montana Library Network (MLN). LDD staff helps libraries work together so that patrons get what they need. This is particularly important in a state, such as Montana, where our communities are divided by very long distances.

The Library Development Division staff provides consulting and support services to Montana's Library Federations. There are six Federations across the state. Library federations were first developed in 1956. The developers of Montana's Federations believed that the great distances and sparse population of Montana shouldn't result in low quality library services, and that the limited services available from small public libraries would be strengthened and improved through cooperative programs.

The original goals of the federations were to develop innovative, cooperative programs for efficient delivery of library services and to provide technical assistance, programming services and support for public libraries throughout the state.

All public libraries and many other types of libraries belong to one of six federations which 51 years later continue to provide services based on these same goals. Typical federation services include: resource sharing, reference back up, continuing education opportunities, financial support for joint purchases, and individual grants to improve federation-wide library services to Montana citizens.

Library Development also produces annual volumes of public library statistics and the Montana Library Directory. These publications are extremely important to the library community as they work together to provide library services.

Library Development provides access to Montana library catalogs as well as managing joint purchases of statewide services and products. For example, The Montana State Library on behalf of Montana libraries has negotiated with a comprehensive national bibliographic vendor known as OCLC to provide tools to help with acquisition, cataloging and interlibrary loan services.

The Library Development staff has received funding for several grant requests from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. These grants augmented public access to the Internet in public libraries and funded the Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) grant which encouraged and enabled Montanan's to become professional librarians.

The Montana State Library, with the support of the Montana Legislature has negotiated on behalf of Montana libraries a statewide purchase of approximately 5,500 full text magazines, 160 newspapers, a car repair reference, and an education-related reference database. These databases are available to any user of any subscribing Montana library.

The Montana State Library has helped libraries share information in ways no one could have imagined a few years ago. Today, if you are in Kalispell and want a book titled "Small Business Start-up Kit" it doesn't matter if the Kalispell Public Library doesn't have it because the Missoula Public Library does. You can have it in your hands the next day thanks to the Montana Shared Catalog.

Thirty years ago Montana libraries mailed a "ticker tape" list of books needed by their patrons to all other participating libraries in the state, hoping that one library might have the needed book and share it. The process could take up to six weeks. Today, we have the Montana Shared Catalog – what used to be found in the card catalog at each of these local libraries is now joined with catalogs from all other participating libraries, on-line for you to search, anytime, from anywhere over the internet. Find the book you want and obtain it, even if it is not in your local library's collection. The current Montana Shared Catalog serves 450,000 Montanans, 56 Montana communities and 78 Montana libraries. The Montana Shared Catalog offers access to over 640,000 titles. The Montana Shared Catalog began as a pilot project with the Missoula Public Library handling the fiscal management. Due to the success of the project and the growth statewide, we would appreciate your authorization to establish a proprietary account at the State Library so we can relieve Missoula County/Missoula Public Library from the responsibility of providing fiscal management of this statewide library project

Over the next biennium service to Montana libraries, librarians, and patrons will include:

- Delivery of at least four technology skills workshops per year conducted at geographically balanced locations throughout Montana.
- Providing online delivery of at least 12 training sessions teaching E-content skills for librarians.
- Annually providing at least two statewide trustee training opportunities, four regional trustee training opportunities and fifteen individual library board training sessions.

Page 8 – Decision Packages Overview

We are proud of what we do at the State Library and how we help citizens across the state – either directly through one of our programs and services or indirectly through our assistance to other libraries.

But there is so much more to do ...so much more we could achieve if the State Library was funded at an adequate level. You have decision packages to consider that will begin to address just a few of these funding needs.

Information has become the great equalizer in today's society and libraries, especially in poor, rural states like Montana, play an increasingly critical role in leveling the playing field.

Decision Packages 1 and 2

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst's discussion of the Decision Packages relating to NRIS and the Natural Heritage Program raises two issues – the first relating to categorizing these funds as present law adjustment and the second relating to the use of General Funds as opposed to agency pass-through funding. We have responded to both of these concerns in our LFD Template summary; however, I would like to emphasize to you our perspective.

First, regarding the question of present law adjustment:

For the past twenty years, NRIS has excelled in serving Montana's needs for natural resource information, including geographic and biological data. The importance of this role has been reflected in the high level of use of our web services and the tremendous appreciation and support repeatedly voiced by users. The continuing need for a state GIS Portal and the continuing administration of that program within the State Library's NRIS program was recently affirmed by the state Chief Information Officer in his State of Montana GIS Common Operating Picture report.

However, funding for the Natural Resource Information System and its Natural Heritage Program is a complex patchwork and has long been inadequate to fully support the program. Current core funding for the program supports only half of the staffing needed to perform many essential activities. These functions include:

1. obtaining, integrating, cataloging, storing, managing and providing access to the increasing amounts of natural resource information from government and other sources,
2. working with data producers to keep this information current,
3. developing and managing web-based services to provide this information to users,
4. conducting outreach and training to promote effective access and use of these services,
5. helping users and responding to user requests.

To retain the breadth and depth of staff necessary to operate, we have relied heavily on soliciting contract funds for special-interest projects, which primarily focus on developing applications to access specific datasets. These contracts demand a great deal of time, and prevent staff from keeping up with data acquisition, processing, management, and dissemination -- which are the mandated functions of NRIS. These project activities have resulted in delays of up to a year or more in getting new information into the system and available to users. NRIS data access applications, once leading edge, are now in serious need of renewal and update.

Over the years, NRIS has relied on its ability to integrate and leverage funds from multiple sources to build the existing geographic data repository and develop the discovery, visualization, and access applications that allow this information to be utilized by a wide range of users. Keeping the data current and consolidating ageing web access applications into a single, powerful Geographic Information System (GIS) portal will take a concentrated effort that is not possible under the current funding. The funding provided through Decision Package 1 and Decision Package 2 does not represent new activities or an expansion of the program; instead, it provides the funding that will enable existing staff to accomplish the core mission and ensure that Montana decision-makers, businesses and citizens have access to current and accurate geographic and natural resource information. Continued inadequate funding will lead to growing backlogs of unprocessed data --already at around 50,000 records within our Natural Heritage Program-- and longer delays in meeting the needs of both the public and private sectors. The real risk however, is that decisions will be made without accurate, current information, and that time and money will be spent gathering information that already exists. NRIS saves everyone time and money by ensuring that needed information is readily available from a single reliable source.

Second, regarding the question of General Funds as opposed to agency pass-through funding:

Above all, NRIS is a specialized service of the Montana State Library. The Montana State Library relies heavily on all state agencies to work with our staff to ensure that state government information intended for public access is identified and made available to the library to be cataloged and preserved for permanent access. This includes state publications, natural resource information contained in agency information systems, and geographic information produced by agencies.

Although placement of agency information within the State Library collection does in many cases provide direct benefit to the producing agency, the true benefit of State Library services, including NRIS services, is not to the agencies contributing their data, but to all other agencies, the private sector, and the public at large who benefit by obtaining the data and information from a single source, properly documented, fully integrated with other information sources, and supported by information science professionals.

State agencies must not be discouraged from placing their data and information into the State Library collection, and must not be discouraged from taking advantage of the services of the State Library and NRIS, by being charged for contributing to or utilizing the services of the State Library. We therefore strongly support decreasing, and ultimately eliminating, NRIS' reliance on agency pass-through funding to carry out the program's core mission. We urge support of the General Fund in this decision package.

Decision Package 6

FEDERATIONS: Decision Package 6 recommends restoring some important funding for the six federations. All public libraries and many other types of libraries belong to these federations which allow Montana's libraries to network and receive continuing education in a cost effective manner at the regional level. Federations offer library workers in Montana's rural areas the benefits of quality educational opportunities and the ability to leverage local and state funds to purchase vital but expensive library services and products.

In response to previous year's budget cuts, federations reduced meeting frequency, cut continuing education opportunities, and decreased participation in

federation wide and/or statewide purchases of reference databases and computer security software. These cuts have mostly adversely affected library patrons, especially in rural area, by providing less materials and services. The increase funding for federations in this decision package will allow federations to return to a level of funding they had in 2002 and will allow them to reinstate most of the cut services and programs.

MAGAZINE DATABASE: This program is the purchase of a statewide license(s) to periodical database(s). The Montana State Library with the help of the Montana Legislature on the behalf of Montana libraries has negotiated a statewide purchase of approximately 5,500 full-text magazines, 160 newspapers, an auto repair reference, and a small education-related reference database. The funding purchases a license for all participating libraries to use the product. Using a computer and an Internet browser, the user can easily search the product to find information on any topic in magazines, ranging from "Time" to specialized health, scholarly, or business journals. Montanans use the product to find information for school reports, medical conditions, investment news, business opportunities, and many other uses. 383 Montana libraries participate in the project and use of the online products continues to grow each year. Local libraries have in the past contributed approximately 20% of the total database license fee.

The new monies will add approximately \$120,000 per year to the statewide database project. The additional database monies will allow **all** Montana Libraries to participate in the program, it will allow us to add additional statewide databases, as well as eliminate the invoicing and collecting of payments from the local libraries. This will allow local libraries to spend the money on other services such as adding to their collection, offering story time or other quality speakers and programs.

Page 10 – Summary

Representative Wells, members of the Committee, I want to thank you again for your time and consideration of these State Library issues that affect all Montanans. The LFD template in your binders provides detailed money charts, tables and objective discussions and I will be glad to address any question you may have of that information.

Please remember that Libraries are a key part of the education system. Libraries provide the place and the services for lifelong learning.

So much of what we do is based in things that we fear might make your eyes glaze over when you must sit here and listen to me go on about them - words such as shared catalogs, interlibrary loans, information technology, Web portals, and magazine databases. There's no passion in Web applications. There's no passion in massive on-line databases.

But there is passion in finding the health information you need -- via our magazine database -- about a diagnosis you or a loved one just received and don't fully understand.

There is passion in finding out -- through NRIS -- that the property you are considering for purchase is located five miles downstream from a Superfund site.

There is passion in learning -- using our Natural Heritage Program's on-line field guides -- about the frogs your grandson discovered along the creek by your house.

There is passion finding out through the talking book program that your Mom's favorite title is still available for her to "read" (listen to) when vision loss occurs.

There is passion in finding the information you need, with the help of your librarian, to start your own business, or to embark on a dream career.

There is passion in seeing the sheer joy your child or grandchild experiences when hearing a new book at story hour.

This passion is best expressed by our users:

From a Talking Book Library patron in Dutton:

"I hear about book titles from my sighted friends and have always been able to find it at the Talking Book Library(TBL). I tell my friends and anyone who will listen that TBL has been my salvation."

From the manager of a local environmental consulting firm -

"NRIS is critical to the efficient and effective use of natural resource data and information in Montana. Without the services NRIS provides the cost of natural resource management and environmental management services in Montana will increase and the quality will go down."

And lastly, from the Board Chair of a local public library board:

"If it were not for the Library Development Division of the State Library my "job" as library board president would be more difficult. I would have to do more research, make more telephone calls and email communications to get pertinent information and even then wonder how accurate and valid that information might be. With the support of LDD, I know that I am getting the correct information to help me and our board make the right decisions for Mineral County residents."

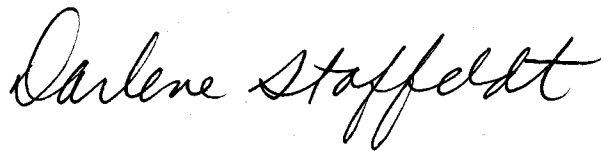
You will find additional quotes from our users on page 9 of our handout.

The end result of what we do, who is affected, and why they value it so much, is what really matters. How we get there still matters, but it mostly matters to us – and to you as members of this committee, as you consider our budget for the coming biennium.

I extend an invitation to you to visit the State Library any time. We'd love the opportunity to show you what we do. We hope you will accept the Montana Library Association's invitation to join Montana librarians at the State Library this evening. You have dedicated hard-working people at your State Library. Please support the State Library's budget so we can continue to provide access, content, and leadership and ensure that Montanans receive the best possible library services and resources.

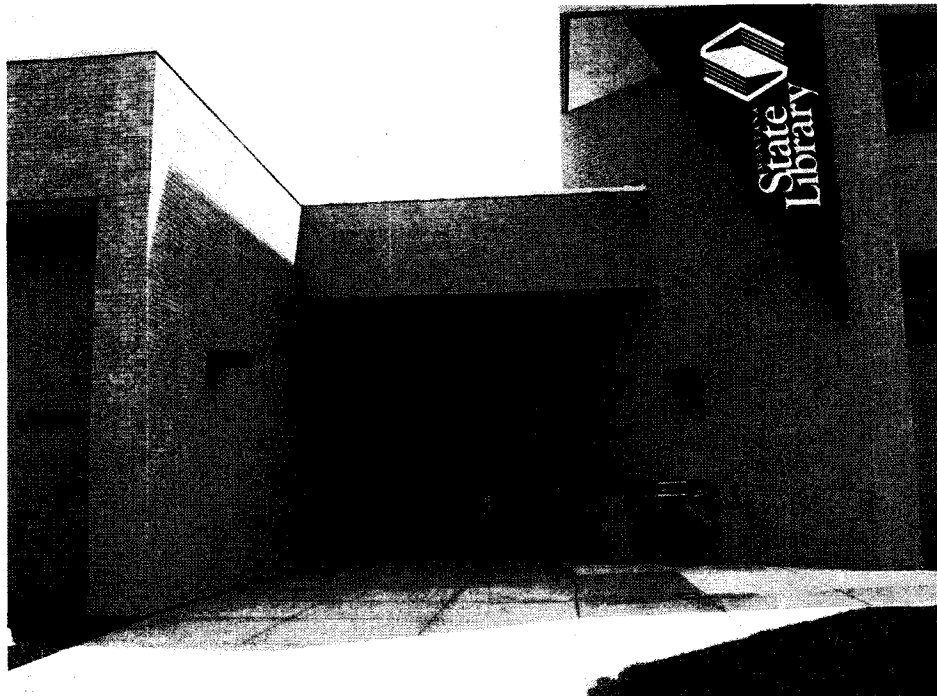
I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have.

Thank you.



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Montana State Library



Presentation to the Joint Subcommittee
on Education
60th Legislative Session
January 9, 2007

Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian

MSL's mission flows from its statutory mandates:

- Ensure all Montana citizens have access to information created by their government;
- Meet the information needs of Montana government agency management and staff;
- Support the role of all Montana libraries in delivering quality library content and services to their patrons;
- Work to strengthen local community public libraries;
- Ensure that Montanans who are visually or physically handicapped are provided access to library resources.

MSL is governed by an active and involved seven member commission that meets bimonthly.

The Governor appoints five members:

- **Donald Allen**, Chair, Billings
- **Caroline Bitz**, Vice – Chair, Box Elder
- **Cindy Carrywater**, Hayes-Lodge Pole
- **Ron Moody**, Lewistown
- **Nora Smith**, Bozeman

← testified

Plus: **Linda McCulloch**, Superintendent of Public Instruction
and **Bruce Morton**, Dean of Montana State University
Libraries, appointee of the Commissioner of Higher
Education.

MSL's Five Year Strategic Plan provides both guidance and accountability



Strategic Plan
2006 – 2011

MSL's Long Rang Plan for 2006 through 2011 was accepted by the Library Commission in August 2006. This comprehensive plan contains 30 pages of strategic initiatives covering all library programs. Find our Long Range Plan on-line at:

msl.mt.gov/admin/strategicplan0611.pdf

MSL has adopted five GOALS . . .

1. Acquire and manage Content
2. Provide convenient Access
3. Provide Consultation and Leadership
4. Encourage Partnerships and Collaboration
5. Maintain an Efficient and Effective Organization

. . . which became the basis for comprehensive program and staff work plans.

Legislative Fiscal Division



Your LFA Template summary for MSL contains five pages of measurable objectives as examples of the work to be conducted with the funding appropriated for MSL by this legislative body

Library
Development
Division
Annual Work Plan

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√ _____
√ _____

Employee
Work Plan

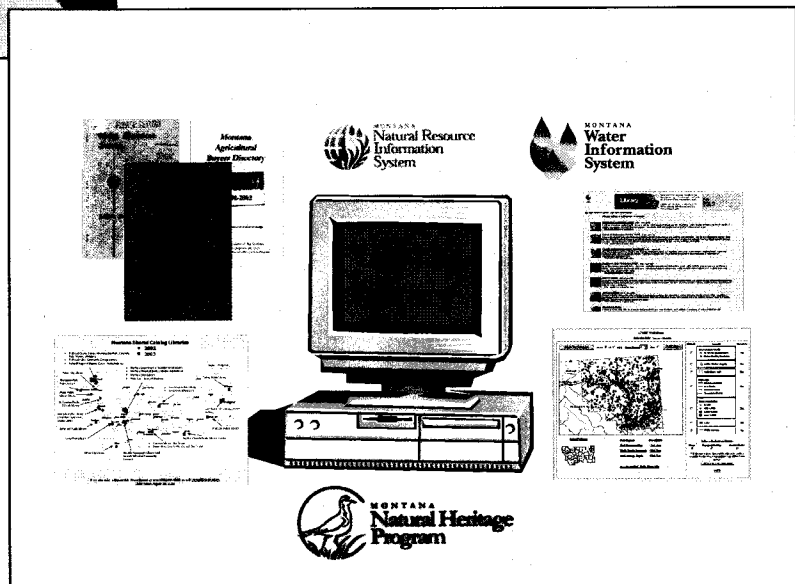
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MSL divides its work among three administrative units:



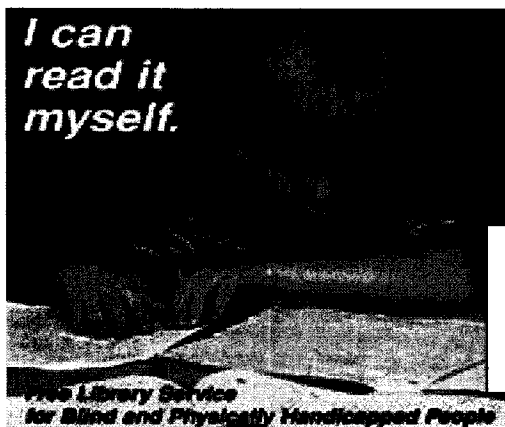
**Talking Book
Library – focuses
on library service
for individuals who
are unable to read
standard print.**

**Digital Library –
focuses on access to
information for all.**



**Library Development - focuses
on consultation and service to
libraries throughout state.**

Talking Book Library – serving Montana’s blind and physically handicapped



Our Talking Book Library provides library services for individuals who are not able to read standard print.

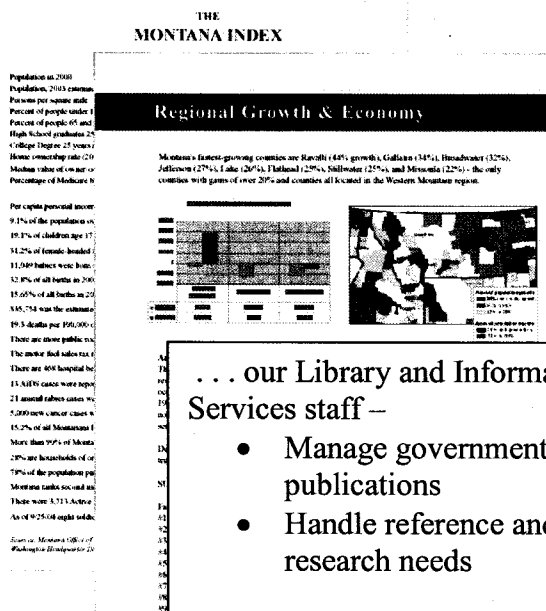
- Provides the only access point for Montana citizens to the National Library Service’s Talking Book collections;
- 60,000 book titles, as well as magazines, descriptive videos, and a children’s collection;
- Provides reading materials to nearly 3000 Montana citizens with vision or other physical disabilities;
- Circulates over 150,000 materials each year;
- Median age of our Talking Book patron is 74 years;
- Two recording studios for recording Montana-related publications; one at the State Library and one at the Montana State Prison;
- Records an average of 50 “Montana” book titles each year, as well as two quarterly Montana magazines.



A Legislative Snapshot

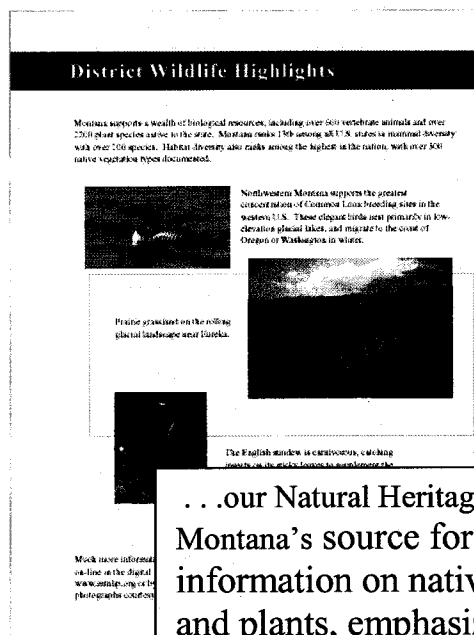
The District Highlights and Statistics pamphlet is brought to you
 courtesy of our Digital Library Division.

The pamphlet integrates the work of . . .



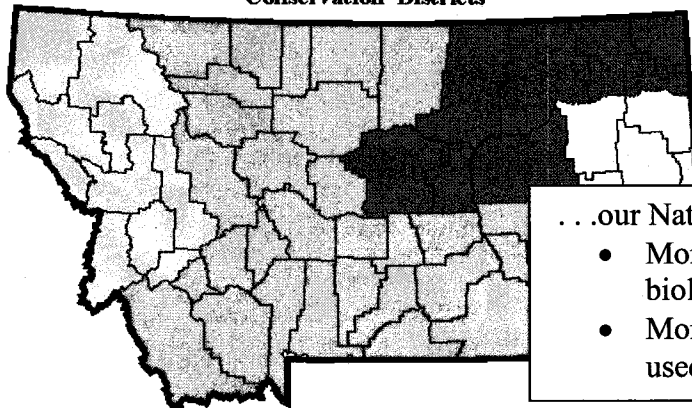
. . . our Library and Information
 Services staff –

- Manage government publications
- Handle reference and research needs



. . . our Natural Heritage Program –
 Montana's source for
 information on native animals
 and plants, emphasizing
 species of concern and high
 quality habitats such as
 wetlands.

Montana DNRC and National Resource Conservation Service Conservation Districts

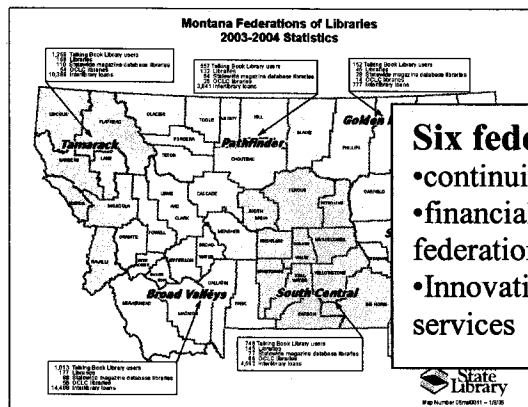


. . . our Natural Resource Information System –

- Montana's "One Stop Shop" for land, water, and biological information
- Montana's point of access for geospatial information used in geographic information systems (GIS)

Montana State Library
 ntation to the Joint Subcommittee on Education
 January 9, 2007

Assistance with design and development of library services
Continuing education and training
Cooperative access to Montana library catalogs
Establishment of statewide standards



Library Federation Support

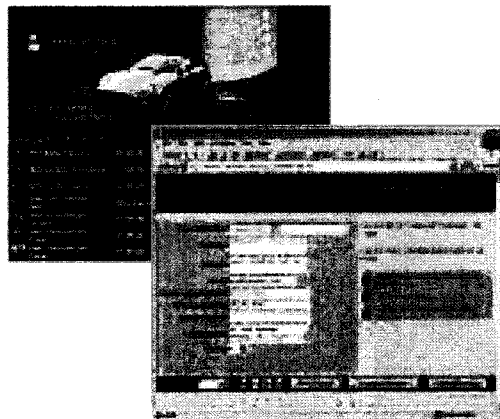
Six federations

- continuing education opportunities
- financial support for joint purchases and individual grants to improve federation wide library services to Montana citizens
- Innovative and cooperative programs for efficient delivery of library services

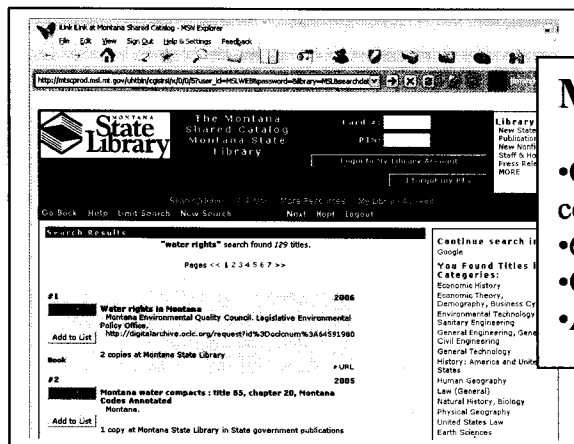
Montana Public Library Annual Report of Statistics
Montana Library Directory

Statewide full text magazine database

- 5,500 full text magazines
- 160 newspapers
- Automobile repair reference
- Education-related reference database
- Available to any user of any subscribing Montana library



Statewide bibliographic services vendor (OCLC)
Professional Publications
Facilitating infusion of funds



Montana Shared Catalog

- Currently serves 425,000 Montanans, 56 Montana communities, 78 libraries, and 820 librarians
- 640,000+ titles in combined catalog
- Growing as staff and financial resources allow
- Approachable and easy to learn interface

Decision Packages Overview

Montana State Library
Presentation to the Joint Subcommittee on Education
January 9, 2007

- **DP 1 – GIS Portal**
- **DP 2 – Natural Heritage Program**
- **DP 6 – Increase Library Federation Support and Statewide Database**

Information has become the great equalizer in today's society, and libraries, especially in poor, rural states like Montana, play an increasingly critical role in leveling the playing field. We ask that you support your State Library's budget.

Decision Packages 1 and 2 NRIS/Heritage

- For twenty years, NRIS/NHP has excelled in serving Montana's needs for natural resource information, including geographic and biological data;
- Services heavily used; highly appreciated;
- Recognized need for a more complete and up-to-date state GIS Portal;
- Current funding relies heavily on contracts for special-interest projects – results in stagnant information and delays in getting information to users;
- DP1 and DP2 do not fund new activities or program expansion, but enable existing staff to accomplish the core mission – to ensure that Montana decision-makers, businesses and citizens have access to current and accurate geographic and natural resource information.

Decision Package 6 Federation and Statewide Database

FEDERATIONS:

- Six regions of the state;
- Restoring important funding;
- Regional continuing educational opportunities;
- Financial support for joint purchases;
- Individual grants to improve federation wide library services to Montana citizens.

MAGAZINE DATABASE:

- Purchase of a statewide license(s) to periodical database(s);
- 383 libraries currently can afford to participate;
- Local libraries have in the past contributed approximately 20% of the total database license fee;
- Opens product up to all libraries (thus all Montanans)...even smaller ones who in the past were not able to make the payments;
- Additional funding will eliminate the invoicing and collecting of payments;
- Additional funding may allow for an additional database or two.

"I hear about book titles from my sighted friends and have always been able to find it at the Talking Book Library(TBL). I tell my friends and anyone who will listen that TBL has been my salvation"

- TBL patron from Dutton

"MTNHP's resources and staff are vital to my ability to get my job done. I believe that MTNHP is one of the best resources available to landscape managers in the state. I would have a very difficult time evaluating the potential for pesticide use to affect our species if I did not have the MTNHP to turn to. I strongly support the MTNHP, appreciate your work—and look forward to more resources being available in the future."

- Amy Bamber, Montana Department of Agriculture

"I want you to know that I really appreciate the books and how kind you all are to me. I would be lost without these books. When I get them in the mail it is just like Christmas or my birthday. I curl up with my dog and we listen to the books. Thank you very much."

- TBL patron from Laurel

"I use the resources of the Montana Shared Catalog for both personal use and for work, from the library or remotely, which makes searching very easy. The ability to use remote access allows me to do tasks from any venue where I have Internet access so my window of opportunity is wide open."

- Honore Bray, Library Director, Missoula Public Library:

"We use the resources provided by the MNHP in our day-to-day planning and design activities for the Montana Department of Transportation. The resources of the MNHP are absolutely invaluable to us as we plan and design work for MDT, in the most timely and economically manner possible. Having a "one stop shopping location" for this information is vitally important and the most efficient use of our time."

- Larry Sickerson, Montana Department of Transportation

"NRIS is critical to the efficient and affective use of natural resource data and information in Montana. Without the services NRIS provides the cost of natural resource management and environmental management services in Montana will increase and the quality will go down."

- Fred Gifford, Office Manager , Tetra Tech

"It would be a real handicap if the MSL library were not here to make sure I have access, in a timely way, to the information resources that I need to do a good job."

- Diane Tipton, FWP

"If it were not for the Library Development Division of the State Library my "job" as library board president would be more difficult. I would have to do more research, make more telephone calls and email communications to get pertinent information and even then wonder how accurate and valid that information might be. With the support of LDD, I know that I am getting the correct information to help me and our board make the right decisions for Mineral County residents."

- Dan Arnsan, Chair, Mineral County Library Board of Trustees

"The Library Development Division provides a great "reference" for proper library procedures and allows us to be creative within our library service area. This consulting activity helps us understand library law, patron service, etiquette, and methods to develop programs that are beneficial to our patrons. The LDD staff helps our library staff save time. If we have any questions, we can brainstorm among the staff for best possible solutions and if we're still confused help is one phone call or email away."

- Sonja Woods, Library Director, Miles City Public Library

"The State Library has always been very helpful when I call or e-mail about questions, interlibrary loans, or hard to find materials. You people are doing a wonderful job. Keep up the good work!"

- Teena Friesz, Miles Community College

"We consider these resources absolutely invaluable to our small business. Without them, we would be severely limited in our ability to serve our clients in a timely manner and that would adversely affect the business."

- Dave Baldwin, Principal, Senior Hydrogeologist, Water Right Solutions, Inc

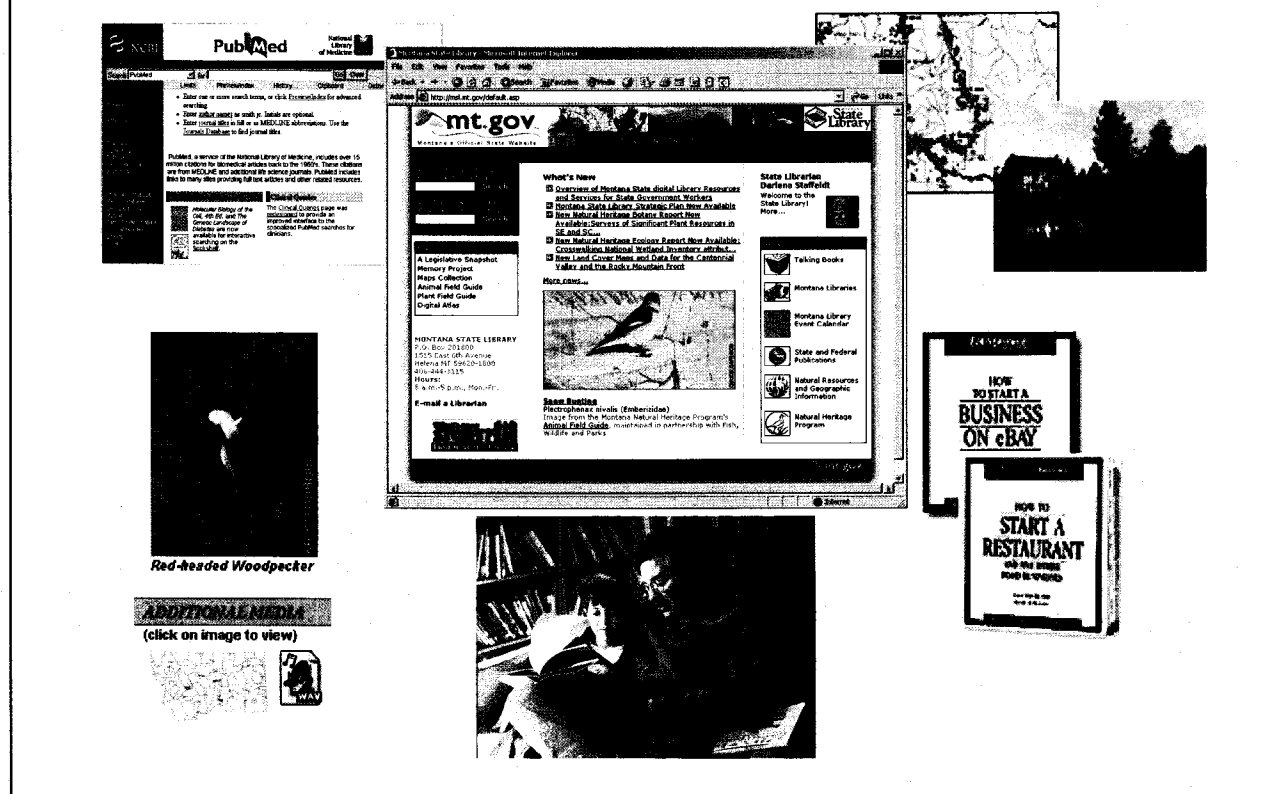
"Prior to the development of the [Heritage Program], we had to develop [rare plant and animal species] information through a difficult process of literature review...and contact with knowledgeable individuals... both time consuming and expensive. The [Heritage Program] has not only assembled this information in one readily accessible location, but has actively increased the base of knowledge about many species in Montana. This knowledge would otherwise be lacking or extremely difficult to acquire."

- Pat Farmer, President, Westech Environmental Services

"The assumption that NRIS will be available has been basic to our business strategy. If NRIS were not available, our business model would be significantly different. It is likely that we would not be able to provide the services to our clients that we currently perform, and that our clients would be required to use a large, quite possibly non-local company rather than our small, Montana-based business."

- Carol Lee-Roark, Ph.D., Hyalite Environmental, LLP

Learning changes lives



State Library issues affect all Montanans. Libraries are a key part of the education system. Libraries provide the place and the services for lifelong learning.

The end result of what we do, and who is affected, and why what we do is valuable to those end users, is what really matters. How we get there still matters, but it mostly matters to us – and to you as members of this committee, as you consider our budget for the coming biennium.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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